The Bible Way to Heaven

I want to ask you an important question: Do you know for sure if you'll be going to heaven one day? Would you say you're 100% certain about it?

The word "gospel" means good news, and the Bible has some very good news for you and me: There is one way to be absolutely sure that you'll be going to heaven.

In Romans 3:10, the Bible says *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one"* Someone who's righteous would be someone who's doing the right thing all the time. We see here that no one is like that. Nobody is perfect. Romans 3:23 goes on to say *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*

The first thing to understand is just that everyone is a sinner. I would admit that I'm a sinner. Would you?

If we go to chapter 6, we learn that there's a punishment for our sin. Romans 6:23 says *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* When someone goes to work, the money they earn would be called their wages. That's what they get for what they did. The Bible says that the wages of sin (what we get for our sin) is death.

After you physically die, your soul goes to one of two places. The Bible talks about "the second death," or being cast into the lake of fire. More commonly we would just say going to hell. In the book of Revelation, we're given a list of people who will be thrown into this lake of fire based on their sins. Revelation 21:8 says *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* You can see some bad sins at the beginning of that list: murderers, sorcerers... You're probably not a murderer, right? Probably not a sorcerer either. But at the end of the list it says "all liars." I know that I've told lies before. Have you? We all have. I don't think that verse is saying that all sin is equal, but it is saying that any sin is enough to send someone to hell. If Jesus didn't die for us, that's where we'd all be going. That's what we all deserve because we've all sinned.

That's the bad news, but the good news is that God loves us and does not want us to go to hell. Romans 5:8 says *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* So even in that state of being sinners and deserving hell, God still loved us, and He loved us enough to send Jesus Christ to die for us.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth. He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He did a lot of miracles to prove He was really the Son of God: walking on water, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and many others. He also preached the Word of God while He was on the earth, and a lot of people didn't like that because He was preaching against sin... and they were living in sin. Many of the jews hated Jesus and wanted Him dead. Eventually they had Jesus delivered up and crucified on the cross – nails through His hands and through His feet. The Bible says that when He was on the cross, He Himself bear our sins in His own body. Every sin I've ever done, and every sin you've ever done, it was as if He had done it in that moment. He was taking the punishment that we deserve.

Jesus died on the cross and they buried His body. Three days later, God raised Him from the dead. That's what Easter is about: the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But just because He died for everyone doesn't mean everyone automatically goes to heaven. In Acts 16:30-31 the Bible tells us there's one thing that we have to do. *"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what you have to do. That would mean to put your faith and trust in Him to save you.

Notice this verse doesn't say go to church and you'll be saved. It doesn't say keep the ten commandments and you'll be saved. It doesn't say get baptized and you'll be saved. It doesn't say turn from your sinful lifestyle and you'll be saved. Those are all great things to do – things Christians should be doing – but not with the idea that they're getting us to heaven. Salvation is not about what we're doing for Jesus. It's about what He did for us.

John 3:16 is the most famous verse in the Bible: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Again we see it's just whosoever believes, not whosoever is good enough. None of us could ever be good enough. That's why we need a Savior.

If something is "by grace," that means it's not something you deserve or that you've earned. It's something that was given to you out of love. Ephesians 2:8-9 says *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* In other words, our good works in this life – going to church, reading the Bible, helping other people, turning away from sin, keeping God's commandments – we can be blessed for doing those things, but they don't get us to heaven. That's because salvation is not of works. It's by grace through faith.

That verse also says salvation is the gift of God. Now let's say I told you "I'm going to give you this Bible as a gift… but you have to wash my car." Would that be a gift? No, because you're working for it. Salvation is not a reward; it's a gift. Jesus Christ paid for the gift with His own blood. We just accept it by putting our faith in Him.

Unfortunately a lot of Christians today are trusting their own works to get them to heaven. If you ask why they think they'll be going, they might tell you "I believe in Jesus… and I'm a pretty good person," or "well, I haven't done anything that bad," or "I've been baptized," or "I repent of my sins." The sad reality is that they will not be going to heaven unless they change their mind before it's eternally too late.

In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus warns us about those exact people: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

These people were Christians. They even call Jesus "Lord." Why can't they enter into heaven? They did the good works, but they didn't do the will of the Father.

In John 6:40 Jesus says *"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."*

If you want to go to heaven, it has to be done God's way. Not on your own terms. The will of the Father is to believe on the Son.

So let's say you've done that. You've put your faith in Christ and have everlasting life. After that point, do you think God would ever take it back, or that you could lose your salvation for any reason? Think about it for a moment before you read the answer.

In John 10:27-28 Jesus says *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."*

Does it sound like you can lose it? Eternal life means it lasts forever. He says you shall never perish. If there was anything you could do to perish and go to hell after you've been saved, then Jesus lied. No man can pluck you out of His hand – not even you.

John 5:24: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."*

Notice a few things: “hath everlasting life” is present tense. If you have everlasting life today, and for some reason you didn’t have it a week later, did you have everlasting life? No, because it clearly didn’t last forever. Notice also that you shall not come into condemnation. Are there any exceptions? I don’t see any. Why? Because the moment you believe on Him, you’re passed from death unto life. Salvation is not a process; it’s a moment in time. There’s also no verse that talks about being passed back from life unto death. It’s a one-way street.

John 6:37: *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

John 11:25-26: *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”*

“Shall never die,” “shall not come into condemnation,” “never perish,” “eternal life…”

It’s a consistent message: Once you’re saved, you’re always saved.

Does that mean you can just do whatever you want without any consequences? Although you can never lose your salvation, there’s another thing to keep in mind. If you go out and live a sinful life after you’re saved, of course God will still punish you, but that punishment comes in this lifetime. We will reap what we sow in this life.

Psalm 89:31-34: *“If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”*

Hebrews 12:6-7: *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”*

It’s just like when you were a little kid: If you broke your parents’ rules, they would punish you, right? Of course. But is there anything you could do to stop being their child? No, and it’s the same way with God. Once you’re a child of God through faith in Jesus, you’re always His child. If you commit a big sin like murder, you’re going to get a big punishment, but He doesn’t take your part out of heaven.

Let’s use the same illustration from earlier: “I’m going to give you this Bible as a gift, but if you do anything I don’t like, I’m taking it back.” Is that a gift? No, because there’s a condition being added. You don’t take back a gift.

Does it sound too good to be true? Jesus died so that it would be true.

Despite clear Bible verses, many false churches teach that it's possible to lose your salvation. They've even gotten tricky with how they phrase it, like you can "walk away from your salvation" or you can "give the gift back." There's no Bible verse mentioning either of these, of course, and it always leads back to trusting in their own obedience and holiness to "keep" eternal life. Whether you have to work to get saved or work to stay saved, that's the same lie, just repackaged a different way. If you think salvation can be lost for any reason, your faith is not in Jesus. It's in yourself. You must believe that it's really eternal life.

The last passage I want to show you is 1 John 5:10-13, which says *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

The Bible says you can **know** that you **have** eternal life right now. You can **know** that you will have a home in heaven that can never be taken from you and that you can never lose... if you're just willing to do one thing.

And that one thing is to put all of your faith in Jesus Christ – not what you're doing for Him, but what He did for you – to get you there. Would you like to do that today?

If you understand that you're a sinner with an eternal price to pay, but you believe God sent His Son to pay that price for you, and you understand that salvation is a one-time event, I'd like to lead you in a short prayer to tell God that you're accepting His gift.

Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner. I know I deserve hell; but I believe You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. He was buried and rose again. I'm only trusting Jesus for my salvation. Amen.

If you made that decision today, I'd like to congratulate you on receiving eternal life. Now that you're saved, you have two choices: You can keep living the way that you've always been living, and you'll still go to heaven, but you'll miss out on a lot of blessings God has for you (and constantly run into His discipline). Or you can start going to a good Baptist church that uses the King James Bible, start reading it, start following God's commandments, and start living a life that's pleasing to Him. Then you'll be blessed in this world and in the one to come.

If you have any questions, if you're not sure about something, or just want to learn more about Christianity, please visit the website **christianfilms.net** and click on the "contact" button. I'll be happy to get back with you when I can.

Which Churches Teach Biblical Salvation

Today many churches call themselves Christian while teaching very different things. While we can agree to disagree on some topics, the gospel is **not up for debate**. Below is a list of various denominations and what they teach about salvation.

Faith: Do they profess that faith in Christ is necessary to be saved?
Works: Do they outright admit they believe works are necessary to be saved?
Baptism: Do they teach that water baptism **(works)** is necessary to be saved?
Repent of Sin: Do they teach that turning from sin **(works)** is necessary to be saved?
Lose Salvation: Do they teach that God can go back on His promise of eternal life?

This list only shows the general policies of the churches. It does not indicate what every individual in them believes. Salvation is, of course, a personal decision.

Denomination	Faith	Works	Baptism	Repent of Sin	Lose Salvation
“Apostolic” Pentecostal	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baptist / IFB / New IFB	Yes	No	No	No	No
Bible Baptist	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Catholic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Church of Christ	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Church of God	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Episcopalian / Anglican	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full Gospel / Foursquare	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Latter Day Saint / Mormon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lutheran	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mennonite / Brethren	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Methodist / AME	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Nazarene	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Non-denominational	Yes	No	No	No	No
Orthodox	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pentecostal	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Presbyterian	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Reformed Baptist	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Seventh Day Adventist	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Southern Baptist	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

Of the **20** types of churches listed, only **2** of them (usually) teach biblical salvation. If you currently go to one of the other kinds, I’d encourage you leave there and not waste time debating the preacher about it. Instead, let’s love the lost souls enough to share the truth with them, just like someone else did by giving you this paper.